GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:477
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2000
CHANGE IN DEFENCE POLICY AFTER VISIT OF US PRESIDENT
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent visit of the US President to India marks a tilt away from the erstwhile USSR and Russia to the US and other Western powers in respect of defence policy; and

(b) if so, the extent to which India`s defence forces depended on Soviet arms, aircraft and other defence supplies a decade ago and at present, and how far this tilt has been corrected in terms of defence supplies?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): The Government of India constantly endeavours to establish and maintain friendly ties with all countries.However, establishment or furtherance of such ties with any country, including USA, does not in any way impact on our close relationship with Russia in the field of defence and security. While our defence equipment is sourced from a large number of countries, a significant proportion of our existing stock of defence equipment continues to be of Soviet/Russian origin.